

STATE SENATOR

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WWW.IN.GOV/S23

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

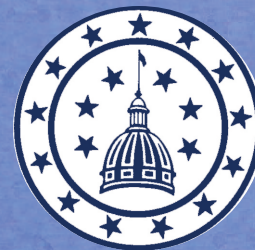
Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



INFO & NEWS

from the

Indiana Senate



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Serving District 23 in Boone, Clinton, Fountain, Hendricks, Montgomery and Warren Counties

Alternative Energy Fueling Economy

Indiana Leading the Nation in Biofuels



The General Assembly has passed several alternative fuel incentives in recent legislative sessions that have placed Indiana at the top of the biofuels industry.

Ethanol and biodiesel burn cleaner, reduce the state's dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase economic opportunities for our state.

Ethanol and biodiesel production have a very positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key dynamics associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends almost 50 percent of corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers.

It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Indiana has 15 ethanol plants announced or under construction, which will produce 840 million gallons of ethanol.

The new ethanol and biodiesel plants will put an estimated \$17.5 million into Hoosier farmers' pockets while investing more than \$1.27 billion in capital expenses.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling stations. There are more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E-85 pumps across the state.

With this amazing progress in such a short time, I am very encouraged that these proposals can take us even further.

I am very proud that Indiana is a national leader in alternative fuels.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Full day kindergarten and other education issues on legislators' plates for 2007

A year ago, the General Assembly made an important change to the way K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that is based on enrollment.

In other words, dollars now follow the child rather than being given arbitrarily to corporations. This is a smart way to fund schools and served as a jumping-off point to improving Indiana's school system.

This year, we passed legislation to make it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, school buses, and other needs of the school or classrooms. Currently, only 61 percent of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

I expect the Senate will discuss many more school issues in 2007. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten (FDK). Most states now fully or partially fund FDK. Experts agree that the additional hours of learning such a program offers puts children further ahead when they enter first grade. That allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.



FDK has been a long time coming in Indiana, but the funds have not been available. Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million each year. The budget deficit of years past has prevented the legislature from offering funding, but thanks to smart spending in the 2005 budget, some believe there may be enough cash available to fund FDK.

Another issue that may come up is performance-based pay for teachers. Indiana is currently the only state in the nation forbidden from using student performance for teacher evaluations. Some believe performance-based pay could serve as an incentive for teachers to better prepare their students.

School choice, school board elections, accountability in higher education, and increased emphasis on Core 40 might also appear in 2007.

A FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

Harrison retires from Indiana Senate after a lifetime of service

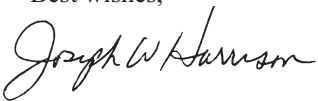
Dear Friends:

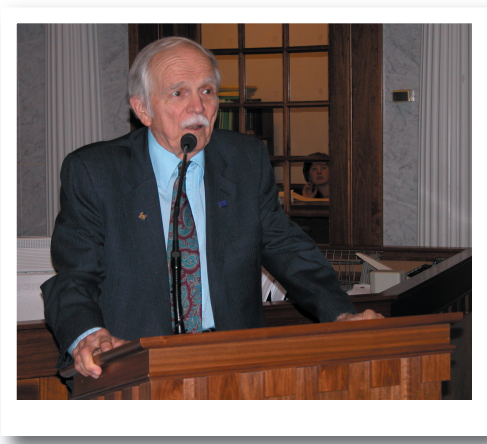
My retirement from the Indiana State Senate November 7th will make this my final newsletter. Reflecting on my 40 years in the Senate causes me to thank so many people for providing me the opportunity to serve Senate District 23 for these many years.

The personal highlights of my career are many and the experiences and memories I will take with me are very special. However, I feel my most important accomplishments and contributions were assisting the many Hoosiers in SD 23 on various issues and concerns, as well as getting to know and working with so many constituents personally on important matters facing the State of Indiana.

First elected during the time the General Assembly met once every two years, legislators now meet every year and serve on several interim study committees throughout the summer and fall, clearly indicating that issues facing our state are becoming increasingly complex. Having said that, I hope that you will continue to be active in your important role of advising your State Senator on issues of concern to you. You can continue to contact your new Senator through the S23@in.gov e-mail address beginning in November.

Again, I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving SD 23, and for your support and words of encouragement through my years of service.

Best wishes,

Senator Joe Harrison



Sen. Harrison speaks from the podium on the Senate floor during his farewell speech to his colleagues in the Senate. Harrison is retiring after dedicating 40 years of service to the state of Indiana.

Defending the Right to Bear Arms

New laws protect rights of law-abiding citizens

"The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State."

Article 1, Section 32 of the Indiana Constitution grants us the freedom to own firearms and store them in our homes. I have always been a firm supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights and would like to tell you about two new laws that protect law-abiding gun owners.

The General Assembly passed legislation this year to simplify the handgun licensing process. Previously, everyone with a handgun license was required to have their permit updated and be fingerprinted every four years — even people who have had such a license all of their adult lives. There aren't too many unchanging things in our lives, but one of those is our fingerprints. The state finally acknowledged that licensed gun owners are law abiding citizens who should not be forced through this arbitrary and cumbersome process every four years.

The Indiana State Police issues about 80,000 gun permits per year; this measure will reduce that number and make the process much more efficient. Safety is still a top priority and law enforcement officers will continue to revoke licenses as necessary.

These small, sensible changes are a great improvement of the current system and make the licensing procedure much more efficient.

In addition, the Legislature added to statute something that is already widely accepted as case law. The "Stand Your Ground" law does basically three things to protect those who are protecting themselves.

It establishes the presumption that a criminal who forcibly enters or intrudes into your home or occupied vehicle is there to cause death or great bodily harm; therefore a person may use

"THE PEOPLE SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, FOR THE DEFENSE OF THEMSELVES AND THE STATE."

— Article 1, Section 32 of the Indiana Constitution

any manner of force, including deadly force, against that person.

It removes the "duty to retreat" if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be. You no longer have to turn your back on a criminal and try to run when attacked. Instead, you may stand your ground and fight back, meeting force with force, including deadly force, if you reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to yourself or others.

It provides that persons using force authorized by law shall not be prosecuted for using such force. It also prohibits criminals and their families from suing victims for injuring or killing the criminals who have attacked them. In short, it gives rights back to law-abiding people.

We felt it necessary to add these statutes to make the law in such situations perfectly clear—Hoosiers have the right to defend themselves and their families.

I am pleased we were able to accomplish these things in defense of our Constitution and for Hoosier gun owners.